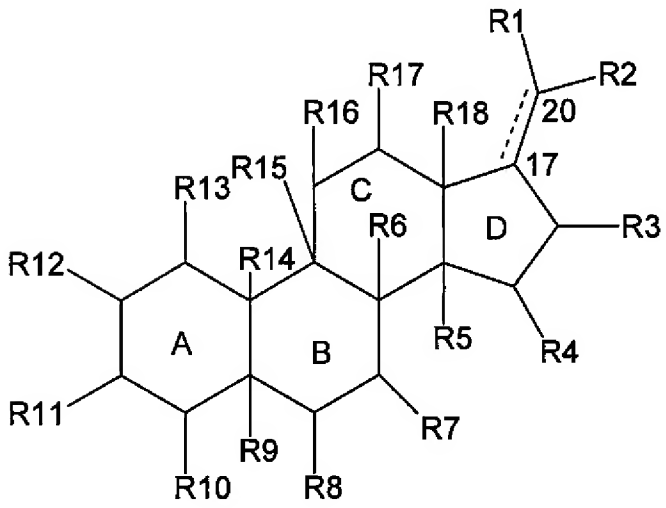
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A compound according to formula I



I

wherein the fused rings A, B, C and D are independently saturated or fully or partially unsaturated;

the bond between C-17 and C-20 is depicted with a full and a dotted line to indicate that said bond can be a single or a double bond;

wherein R1 is hydrogen, halogen, a lipophilic group, $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$, wherein n is 0 or 1 and p is an integer from 1 and 5;

each Z independently represents straight or branched hydrocarbon diradical, optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkynyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, C_{1-6}aminoalkoxy, C_{1-6}aminoalkyl, C_{1-6}aminoalkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkylC_{3-8}cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkylheteroaryl;

each R independently represents hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}aminoalkyl,

C_{1-6}aminoalkoxy or C_{1-6}aminoalkylaminocarbonyl, all of which are optionally substituted with alkyl or C_{1-6}aminoalkyl;

provided that at least one Z is substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkynyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, C_{1-6}aminoalkoxy, C_{1-6}aminoalkyl, C_{1-6}aminoalkylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkylC_{3-8}cycloalkyl or C_{1-6}alkylheteroaryl, or at least one R is different from hydrogen;

R2 represents halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with COOH; C_{1-4}alkoxy, -COOH, $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$;

R3 represents hydrogen halogen or O-R19, wherein R19 represents hydrogen, $-SO_3$, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}acyl or $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$;

each of R4, R7, R8, R11, R12, R13, R16 and R17 independently represent hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, $-OSO_3$, -O-acyl, $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$;

R10 represents hydrogen, methyl, halogen, hydroxy, $-OSO_3$, -O-acyl, $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$;

each of R5, R6, R9, R14, R15 and R18 independently represent hydrogen or methyl or are each independently absent when one of the fused rings, A, B, C and D are unsaturated so as to complete the valency of the carbon atom at that site;

provided that at least one, and not more than three of R1, R2, R4, R7, R8, R10, R11, R12, R13, R16 and R17 is $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$;

provided that the compound is not

3β-hydroxy-6β-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)amino-5α-stigmastane,

3β-hydroxy-6β-(2-diethylaminoethyl)amino-5α-stigmastane,

3β-hydroxy-6β-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)amino-5α-stigmastane,

3β-hydroxy-6α-(2-diethylaminoethyl)amino-5α-stigmastane,

3β-hydroxy-6β-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)amino-5α-cholestane,

3β-hydroxy-6β-(2-diethylaminoethyl)amino-5α- cholestane,

3β-hydroxy-6β-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)amino-5α- cholestane,

3β-hydroxy-6α-(2-diethylaminoethyl)amino-5α- cholestane,

20-(γ-diethylaminopropyl)-amino-5α-pregnan-3β-ol,

20-(β-diethylaminoethyl)-amino-5α-pregnan-3β-ol,

20-(β-dimethylaminoethyl)-amino-5α-pregnan-3β-ol,

20-(β-dimethylaminoethyl)-aminopregn-5-en-3β-ol,

20-(β-diethylaminoethyl)-aminopregn-5-en-3β-ol,

N(β-diethylaminoethyl)-3α,7α,12α-trihydroxy-5β-cholan-24-amide,

N(β-diethylaminoethyl)-3α,12α-dihydroxy-5β-cholan-24-amide,

N(β-diethylaminoethyl)-3α,7α,12α-trihydroxy-5β-cholan-24-amine, or

N(β-diethylaminoethyl)-3α,12α-dihydroxy-5β-cholan-24-amine, and

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R2 represents $-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$.

3. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R7, R11 and/or R16 represents – $(Z)_n$-$(NR\text{-}Z)_p$-$N(R)_2$ or $C(O)$-$(Z)_n$-$(NR\text{-}Z)_p$-$N(R)_2$.

4. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R1 represents a lipophilic group.

5. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R1 is selected from the group consisting of straight or branched, saturated or unsaturated $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl, aryl, $C_{3\text{-}8}$cycloalkyl, aralkyl with 1-10 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety, $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkylaryl, $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl-$C_{3\text{-}8}$cycloalkyl, $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkoxy and heteroaryl.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein R19 represents

$C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl or $C_{1\text{-}6}$acyl.

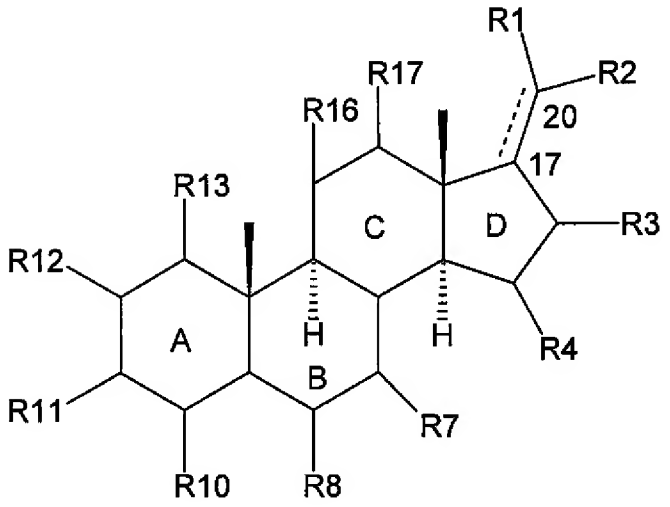
7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R7, R11 and/or R16 represents OH

8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein R11 represents

$-OSO_3$.

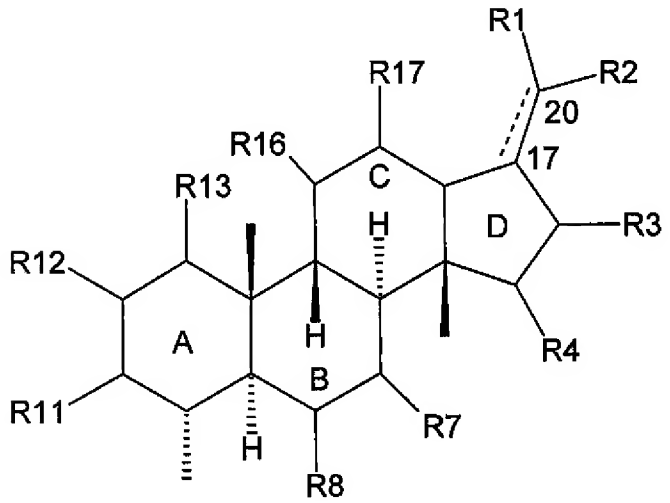
9. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein R11 represents –O-acyl.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 which has the general formula Ia



Ia

or which has the general formula Ib



Ib

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein R2 represents –$(Z)_n$-$(NR\text{-}Z)_p$-$N(R)_2$ or $C(O)$-$(Z)_n$-$(NR\text{-}Z)_p$-$N(R)_2$.

13. (Original) A compound according to claim 12, wherein R7 and R11 are both hydroxy.

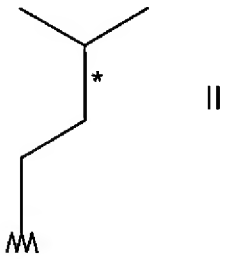
14. (Original) A compound according to claim 12, wherein R11 and R16 are both hydroxy.

15. (Original) A compound according to claim 12, wherein R3 is –OR19, wherein R19 is $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl or $C_{1\text{-}6}$acyl.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A compound according to claim 12, wherein R1 is a straight or branched, saturated or unsaturated $C_{1\text{-}10}$hydrocarbon.

18. (Original) A compound according to claim 12, wherein R1 is a moiety of formula II



II

wherein the carbon-carbon bond denoted "*" is a single or double bond.

19. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~claims 10 or 11~~ claim 10, wherein R11 represents

$-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$ or $C(O)-(Z)_n-(NR-Z)_p-N(R)_2$.

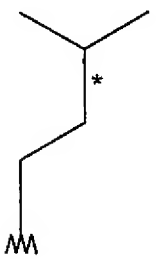
20. (Original) A compound according to claim 19, wherein R2 is C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with COOH, C_{1-4}alkoxy or COOH.

21. (Original) A compound according to claim 19, wherein R3 is O-R19, wherein R19 represents C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}acyl.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A compound according to claim 19, wherein R1 is a straight or branched, saturated or unsaturated C_{1-10}hydrocarbon.

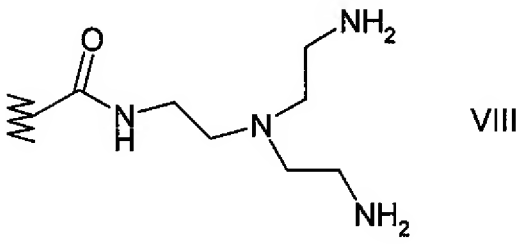
24. (Original) A compound according to claim 19, wherein R1 is a moiety of formula II



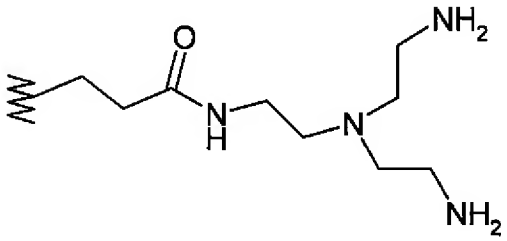
II

wherein the carbon-carbon bond denoted "*" is a single or double bond.

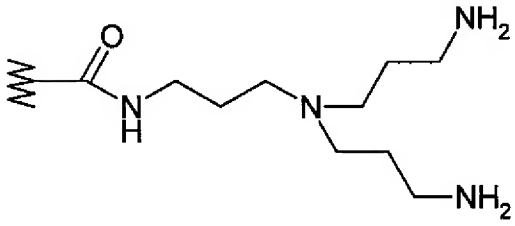
25. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1, 10 or 11~~ claim 1, wherein R2 and/or R11 represents a moiety of the formula VIII, IX, X, XI, XII or XIII



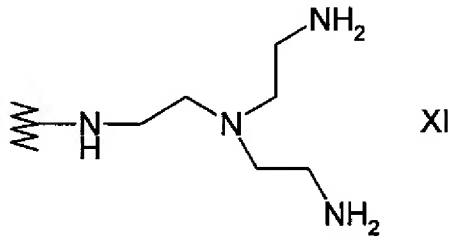
VIII



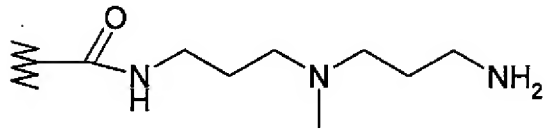
IX



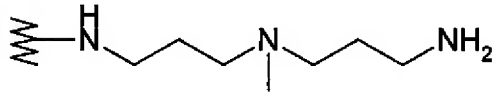
X



XI



XII



XIII

26. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 selected from the list consisting of

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-11-desoxy -17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-16-desacetoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-13(17)-en-17,20,24,25-tetrahydrofusidan-21-carboxamide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-3β- desacetoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-9(11)-en-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

24-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-3α-hydroxy-5β-cholan-24-amide,

22- N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-23,24-bisnor-5-cholenic-22-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-fusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-fusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-3-OSO_3-11-desoxy-17,20,24,25-tetrahydro-fusid-21-amide,

21-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-11-desoxy-16-desacetoxy-17S,20,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

22-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-23,24-bisnor-5-cholenic-22-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-}-3-OAc-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-}-3-OSO_3-11-desoxy-17,20,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-}-11-desoxy-16-desacetoxy-17S,20,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

3-N-{2'-[bis(2'-aminoethyl)amino]ethyl}-fusidic acid,

21-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-11-desoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

21-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-16-desacetoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

24-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl -3α-hydroxy-5β-cholan-24-amide,

21-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-11desoxy-16-desacetoxy-17R,20S,24,25-tetrahydrofusid-21-amide,

3-N-{3'-[bis(3'-aminopropyl)amino]propyl}-}-fusidic acid,

3-N-{3'-[(3'-aminopropyl)(methyl)amino]propyl}-fusidic acid.

27. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or vehicle, and optionally other therapeutically active agents.

28. - 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing or treating a bacterial infection, the method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

34. - 36. (Cancelled)